

W A S H I N G T O N
H I G H E R
EDUCATION
C O O R D I N A T I N G B O A R D

January 2005

Minutes of November 15 Meeting

Joint meeting of Higher Education Coordinating Board and the State Board for
Community and Technical Colleges

HECB Members Present	State Board Members Present
Bob Craves, chair Roberta Greene, vice chair Gene Colin, secretary Herb Simon Sam Smith Mike Worthly Jim Sulton, Executive Director	Tom Koenninger, chair Al Link Jane Nishita Carolyn Purnell Jose Ruiz Sharon Fairchild Earl Hale, Executive Director

Access to college: size and shape of Washington's higher education system

Gary Benson, HECB director of fiscal policy, described the state's current higher education system and outlined future challenges. Over 400,000 students are enrolled in Washington's public and private two-year and four-year colleges and universities, including students at university branch campuses and centers. Benson said that while the prime college-age population continues to grow -- with high school graduation expected to peak in 2008 -- state funding has failed to keep pace with population growth. Over-enrollments (actual enrollments that exceed budgeted slots) have tripled since the 2000-01 biennium.

Washington's public higher education system has been described as an hourglass, with more students seeking degrees at both research universities and community and technical colleges than at comprehensive universities.

Finally, Benson reviewed the goals of the 2004 Strategic Master Plan: (1) to increase opportunities for students to earn degrees (with a goal of 1,700 more associate degrees, 4,000 more bachelor's degrees, and 1,300 more graduate/professional degrees annually); and (2) respond to the state's economic needs (increasing by 300 annually the number of degrees and

certificates earned in high-demand fields, better completion of job training programs to reach 25,000 successful students per year, and an increase in the number of students who demonstrate literacy skills in adult basic education and English as a Second Language programs by 19 percent, to reach 20,525 per year).

Jan Yoshiwara, SBCTC director of education services, discussed enrollment planning as a way of meeting the state's access challenge. Key questions include:

- How much capacity is needed by 2010, which degree programs require additional capacity, and where should capacity be added;
- What are the options for meeting enrollment demand; and
- What are the features of those options -- such as student demographics, location, and costs to the state and to students?

The options examined for meeting enrollment demand include:

Existing public institutions;

University branch campuses;

Two-plus-two centers;

Two-year colleges offering baccalaureate degrees in high-demand fields; and

Private baccalaureate institutions.

Yoshiwara provided enrollment demand projections based on current level college attendance rates, population growth, underserved regions of the state and the need for technical bachelor's degrees in the state and region. Demand projections were compared to enrollment growth projections for the public baccalaureate institutions, as well as institutional attendance patterns. It is assumed that 75 percent of the projected enrollment demand can be accommodated if the growth plans of the universities are funded by the legislature.

A regional planning process, as outlined in the HECB Strategic Master Plan, is needed to identify regional degree program needs, evaluate the needs of placebound students, and close remaining gaps in demand.

Improving collaboration between the two boards

The two boards discussed various ways of working more closely together to achieve common goals. It was agreed that the two chairs and the agencies' executive directors would meet regularly to discuss higher education issues and options for bringing such issues before the joint boards.